

REMARKS

Status of Claims:

Claims 3-20 and 22-29 are pending. Each pending claim defines an invention that is novel and unobvious over the cited art. Favorable re-consideration of this case is respectfully requested.

Disclosure Supporting the Instant Amendment:

The Examiner has suggested that the clarity and precision of Claim 27 would be enhanced if all the functional language were replaced with positive recitations. In order to advance the prosecution of this case, and without admission as to an alleged lack of clarity or precision, the Applicants hereby amend Claims 27 and 28 merely to effect the suggested positive recitations. The instant amendment does not comprise new matter.

Allowable Subject Matter:

The Examiner indicated that Claims 3-20 and 24-29 would be allowable if re-written to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 112 and 101. The Applicants have amended the claims in accordance with the Examiners suggestions. The Applicants respectfully submit that all claims are in condition for allowance.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd Paragraph:

Claims 27 and 3-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd Paragraph, as being indefinite. The Examiner alleges the recitation “the application means” lacks antecedent basis.

The Applicants hereby amend Claims 27 and 28 to cancel all functional language in favor of positive recitations as suggested by the Examiner.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 101:

Claims 28, 9-20, 25-26, and 29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101, as allegedly being directed to non-statutory subject matter in view of recitations of “means for” language.

The Applicants hereby amend Claims 27 and 28 to cancel all functional language recitations in favor of positive recitations of devices.

Conclusion:

In view of the above, consideration and allowance are respectfully solicited.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the foregoing amendments be entered, that the application as so amended receive an examination on the merits, and that the claims as now presented receive an early allowance.

In the event the Examiner believes an interview might serve to advance the prosecution of this application in any way, the undersigned attorney is available at the telephone number noted below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayment associated with this communication, including any extension fees or fees for the net addition of claims, to Deposit Account No. 033975, Order No. 012237-0290736.

Respectfully submitted,
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